



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 7237

January Session, 2017

* _____HB07237HS_____031617_____*

AN ACT CONCERNING AN ADVISORY BOARD FOR PERSONS WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 46a-27 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 The [Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired] Advisory
4 Board for Persons Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing is hereby created
5 to advocate, strengthen and advise the [Department of Rehabilitation
6 Services] Governor and the General Assembly concerning state policies
7 affecting deaf [and hearing impaired] or hard of hearing individuals
8 and their relationship to the public, industry, health care and
9 educational opportunity. The board shall:

10 (1) Monitor services for deaf or hard of hearing persons;

11 (2) Periodically meet with the Commissioners of Public Health,
12 Social Services, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Education,
13 Developmental Services, and Children and Families and the Labor
14 Commissioner, or the commissioners' designees, to discuss best
15 practices and gaps in services for persons who are deaf or hard of
16 hearing;

17 (3) Refer individuals with complaints concerning the qualification

18 and registration of interpreters for persons who are deaf or hard of
19 hearing to the entity designated pursuant to section 46a-10b;

20 (4) Make recommendations for (A) technical assistance and
21 resources for state agencies in order to serve persons who are deaf or
22 hard of hearing; (B) public policy and legislative changes needed to
23 address gaps in services; and (C) the qualifications and registration of
24 interpreters pursuant to section 46a-33a. The board shall submit such
25 recommendations, in accordance with section 11-4a, to the Governor
26 and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
27 cognizance of matters relating to human services.

28 Sec. 2. Section 46a-28 of the general statutes is repealed and the
29 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

30 (a) The [Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired] Advisory
31 Board for Persons Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing shall consist of
32 [twenty-one members, three of whom shall be ex officio. The ex-officio
33 members shall consist of the following individuals:] the following
34 fifteen members appointed by the Governor: (1) The consultant
35 appointed by the State Board of Education in accordance with section
36 10-316a, or the consultant's designee; (2) the president of the
37 Connecticut Council of Organizations Serving the Deaf, [and the
38 superintendent] or the president's designee; (3) the president of the
39 Connecticut Association of the Deaf, or the president's designee; (4) the
40 president of the Connecticut Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, or
41 the president's designee; (5) the Commissioner of Rehabilitation
42 Services, or the commissioner's designee; (6) the executive director of
43 the American School for the Deaf, [The following members shall be
44 voting members: The Commissioners of Public Health, Social Services,
45 Mental Health, Education, Developmental Services, and Children and
46 Families and the Labor Commissioner or their designees and eleven
47 members appointed by the Governor. Of the members appointed by
48 the Governor one shall be a physician licensed to practice medicine in
49 this state and specializing in otolaryngology; one] or the executive
50 director's designee; (7) a parent of a student in a predominantly oral

51 education program; [, one] (8) a parent of a student at the American
 52 School for the Deaf; [and one a parent of a student in a public school
 53 hearing impaired program, and seven deaf persons, one of whom shall
 54 be a parent] (9) a person who is deaf; (10) a person who is hard of
 55 hearing; (11) a person who is deaf and blind; (12) an interpreting
 56 professional who serves deaf or hard of hearing persons; (13) a health-
 57 care professional who works with persons who are deaf or hard of
 58 hearing; (14) the Governor's liaison to the disability community; and
 59 (15) an educator who works with children who are deaf or hard of
 60 hearing. The Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services, the Governor's
 61 liaison to the disability community and a member chosen by the
 62 majority of the board shall be the chairpersons of the advisory board.

63 (b) The [commission] advisory board shall meet at least quarterly or
 64 more often at the call of the [chairperson] chairpersons or a majority of
 65 the members. A majority of [the voting] members in office but not less
 66 than [seven] eight voting members shall constitute a quorum.

67 (c) Any appointed member who fails to attend three consecutive
 68 meetings or who fails to attend fifty per cent of all meetings held
 69 during any calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned. Vacancies
 70 occurring otherwise than by expiration of term in the membership of
 71 the [commission] advisory board shall be filled by the [officer
 72 authorized to make the original appointments] Governor.

73 [(d) The members of the commission shall be reimbursed for actual
 74 and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.]

75 Sec. 3. Subsection (d) of section 2c-2h of the general statutes is
 76 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
 77 *passage*):

78 (d) Not later than July 1, 2017, and not later than every ten years
 79 thereafter, the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
 80 having cognizance of any of the following governmental entities or
 81 programs shall conduct a review of the applicable entity or program in

82 accordance with the provisions of section 2c-3:

83 (1) Connecticut State Board of Examiners for Nursing, established
84 under section 20-88;

85 (2) Advisory and planning councils for regional centers for persons
86 with intellectual disability, established under section 17a-273;

87 (3) Automotive Glass Work and Flat Glass Work Board, established
88 under section 20-331;

89 (4) Electrical Work Board, established under section 20-331;

90 [(5) Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired, established
91 under section 46a-27;]

92 [(6)] (5) Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission,
93 established under section 31-376; and

94 [(7)] (6) Connecticut Marketing Authority, established under section
95 22-63.

96 Sec. 4. Subsection (g) of section 2c-2h of the general statutes is
97 amended by adding subdivision (5) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

98 (NEW) (5) Advisory Board for Persons Who are Deaf or Hard of
99 Hearing, established under section 46a-27, as amended by this act.

100 Sec. 5. Subdivision (2) of section 4-61aa of the general statutes is
101 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
102 *passage*):

103 (2) The [Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired] Advisory
104 Board for Persons Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing;

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	46a-27
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Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	46a-28
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	2c-2h(d)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	2c-2h(g)
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	4-61aa(2)

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1, "affecting deaf and [hearing impaired]" was changed to "affecting deaf [and hearing impaired] or" and in Section 1(4)(c) "qualification" was changed to "qualifications" for consistency and accuracy; in Section 2(a), "the following" was added before "fifteen members", "who serves deaf or hard of hearing persons" was added after "an interpreting professional" and the last sentence was redrafted for clarity; in Section 2(b) "chairperson" was changed to "chairpersons" for accuracy; and Section 5 was added for accuracy and consistency.

HS *Joint Favorable Subst.*